

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02895 312239 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 BNDE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02 PRS-01

RSR-01 /127 W

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R 312152 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7575

INFO BNDD HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: HIGH GOP OFFICIAL REITERATES COMMITMENT TO
NARCOTICS CONTROL

BNDD HQS PLS PASS MR. BELK/ IA AND MR. RIVKIND/ TRG

EMBASSY FOR BNDD

BEGIN SUMMARY. AT LUNCHEON MAY 30 FOR PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING
DANIEL ADDARIO, BNDD REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH AMERICAN AND
PANAMA, TO HIGH OFFICIALS OF GOP JUAN MATERNO VASQUEZ, MINISTER
OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE, OFFERED PANAMA'S TOTAL COOPERATION
IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT AND CITED ACTIONS
ALREADY TAKEN AND RESOURCES ALREADY COMMITTED TO THIS END.
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT COMING FROM MATERNO VASQUEZ CARRIES ADDED
WEIGHT SINCE HE IS LEFTIST IN ORIENTATION AND NO FRIEND OF THE
US END SUMMARY.

1. BNADD PANAMA DISTRICT OFFICE HOSTED LUNCHEON MAY 30 FOR
PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING VISITING BNDD REGIONAL DIRECTOR DANIEL
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ADDARIO TO HIGH PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND NARCOTICS CONTROL, INCLUDING LTC MANUEL NORIEGA, G-2 OF NATIONAL GUARD, AND JUAN MATERNO VASQUEZ, MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR SAYRE AND ADDARIO CITING NEED FOR CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG GOVERNMENTS IN DEALING WITH NARCOTICS, MATERNO VASQUEZ REPLIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT OFFERED COMPLETE AND WHOLEHEARTED COOPERATION IN HALTING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, BACKED UP BY EQUIPMENT AND MEN OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS, G-2 OF NATIONAL GUARD AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TREASURY. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN EARNEST OF THIS COMMITMENT FINANCE MINISTRY HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A NARCOTICS DIVISION IN ITS CUSTOMS SERVICE. MOREOVER, THE COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN DEPORTING ALL FOREIGNERS IN PANAMA EVEN SUSPECTED OF TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

3. PRESIDENT LAKAS AND GENERAL TORRINOS, MINISTER MATERNO VASQUEZ SAID, REALIZED THE NEED FOR SUPPRESSING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC NO MATTER WHAT THE COST AND FOR THIS REASON GOP WAS NOT WORRYING ABOUT HOW MUCH IT HAD TO SPEND TO DO THE JOB. HE CITED PRESENCE AT LUNCHEON OF THREE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OZORES AS FURTHER TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE GOP ATTACHED TO NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

4. ADDARIO BEGAN AFTER- LUNCHEON REMARKS WITH SUMMARY OF WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY US- SOUTH AMERICAN COOPERATION IN REGION OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY DURING PAST YEAR, INCLUDING SEIZURE OF 400 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE, 180 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN, DESTRUCTION OF 15 COCAINE LABORATORIES AND BREAK- UP OF SEVERAL TRAFFICKING RINGS. HE STATED THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH COOPERATION THAT HAD BEEN EXTENDED BY GOP AND OFFERED TO PROVIDE BNDD IN- COUNTRY TRAINING COURSE TO PANAMANIAN NARCOTICS AGENTS EITHER IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO GOP' S PREFERENCE.

5. AMBASSADOR SAYRE SPOKE OF NEED FOR AWAKENING CONSCIENCE OF ALL MEN TO TERRIBLE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO OUR CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS BY NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN NATIONS OF WORLD HAD COOPERATED IN ELIMINATING THE SLAVE TRADE SOME HAD RESISTED BECAUSE THEY HAD MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 02895 312239 Z

FORTUNES THROUGH SLAVERY. TODAY THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE MAKING FORTUNES BY ENSLAVING PEOPLE' S MINDS WITH DRUGS THAT ULTIMATELY DESTROY THEIR BODIES. HE WAS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT WITH THE KIND OF COOPERATION THAT PANAMA OFFERED, WE WOULD TRIUMPH OVER TRAFFICKERS.

6. COMMENT. MATERNO VASQUEZ IS SENIOR MINISTER IN GOP CABINET AND, TOGETHER WITH NOREIGA AND FINANCE MINISTER SANCHIZ, ONE OF THE THREE HIGHEST GOP OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL. MORE IMPORTANT IN MEASURING SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS STATEMENT IS FACT THAT HE IS NOT FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE US AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST LEFTIST MEMBERS OF CABINET. THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING, OR THAT HE WAS PERHAPS DESIGNATED, TO STATE PANAMA' S COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE WITH US IN SUPPRESSING DRUG TRAFFIC GIVES THAT STATEMENT ADDED WEIGHT. SHOULD ALSO BE RECOGNIZED, AS MATERNO VASQUEZ NOTED IN PASSING, THAT GOP HAS ALREADY COMMITTED RELATIVELY IMPORTANT PERSONNEL RESOURCES TO NARCOTICS CONTROL, I. E., 23 MEN IN CUSTOMS NARCOTICS DIVISION AND 21 IN DENI NARCOTICS SQUAD, PLUS COST OF SENDING OTHER POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS TO US FOR NARCOTICS SUPPORT TRAINING.
SAYRE

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